



TESTIMONY OF STEVE GINSBURG  
ADL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
IN SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT SB 753

I would like to thank Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee for the opportunity to testify on behalf of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) in support of SB 753: *An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for Purposes of Determining Legislative Districts*.

As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate and civil rights organization that has been working to secure justice and fair treatment for all since its founding in 1913. We firmly believe that voting is the hallmark of our democracy and accordingly oppose discriminatory practices that reduce the political power of people who are incarcerated and communities of color.

Prison gerrymandering is one such practice that should have no place in Connecticut. By counting incarcerated people where they are imprisoned for the purpose of redistricting—instead of their home communities—Connecticut not only harms incarcerated people themselves (who, due to racism in the criminal legal system, are disproportionately people of color), but it also artificially inflates the political power of the districts where prisons are located, which are predominantly white and rural, at the expense of the districts where incarcerated people reside, which are predominantly Black, Latinx, and urban.

Incarcerated individuals deserve to be represented in their home communities—where they have roots, families, and connections, and where they are most likely to return upon release. People who are incarcerated have no meaningful connection to, or contact with, the communities where prisons are located, and the legislators who represent these districts rarely view themselves as representing, and have little incentive to adequately represent, the incarcerated people who are being detained in these districts.

By passing this bill, Connecticut would join the momentum building in states across the country to end prison gerrymandering for good. It is vital that the General Assembly pass legislation to end prison gerrymandering *this session*, before the redistricting process concludes.

**We therefore urge the Government Administration and Elections Committee to give SB 753 a favorable report. ADL joins the ACLU-CT and others in encouraging the Committee to add a provision to this bill that would fully restore the right to vote for people who are incarcerated.**